

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for processing incoming data by a storage controller with a buffer controller coupled to a buffer memory, comprising:
 - 5 evaluating incoming data block size;
 determining if the incoming data requires padding; and
 padding incoming data such that the incoming data can be processed by the buffer
10 controller.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the incoming data after being padded may be stored in the buffer memory.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the buffer
15 controller pads incoming data in real time before being stored in the buffer memory.
4. A method for reading data from a buffer memory operationally coupled to a storage controller through a buffer controller, comprising:
 - 20 determining if any pads need to be removed from the data; and
 removing pads from the data read from the buffer memory.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the pads are removed
25 so that data can be processed using a storage controller interface.
6. A storage controller, comprising:

- a buffer controller that can be set in a mode to receive any MOD size data and includes a first channel with a FIFO for receiving incoming data via a first interface, wherein the incoming data is padded so that it can be stored in a buffer memory.
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7. The storage controller of Claim 6, wherein padding may also be removed from data that is read from the buffer memory.
8. The storage controller of Claim 6, wherein the
- 10 buffer controller mode for receiving incoming data can be set by firmware.
9. A system having a storage controller operationally coupled to storage device, comprising:
- a buffer controller that can be set in a mode to
- 15 receive any MOD size data and includes a first channel with a FIFO for receiving incoming data via a first interface, wherein the incoming data is padded so that it can be stored in a buffer memory.
10. The storage controller of Claim 9, wherein padding
- 20 may also be removed from data that is read from the buffer memory.
11. The storage controller of Claim 9, wherein the buffer controller mode for receiving incoming data can be set by firmware.